



Photo by Justin Tang

Laval Rouge et Or receiver Guillaume Rioux raises the Vanier Cup after the Rouge et Or defeated the the McMaster Marauders in the 48th Vanier Cup at the Rogers Centre in Toronto on Friday.

# Record-setting crowd takes in Vanier Cup

By David Zammit

As you walk into the Rogers Centre in downtown Toronto last Friday, you would swear the place was shaking off the foundation with all the screams from at least 30,000 fans all dressed in purple to support the McMaster Marauders.

Not all the fans are dressed in purple, however. The Laval Rouge et Or were the small supported crowd, with fewer fans travelling the distance to come to Toronto.

“We have been waiting for this moment since the last years loses. We have been putting all of our effort on the field game in and game out this season,” said Laval Rouge et Or defensive end Arnaud Gascon-Nadon.

The Rogers Centre was host to a record-setting crowd for the 48th Vanier Cup with 37,098 in attendance beating the previous record set in 1989 when 32,847 watched the Western Ontario Mustangs defeat the Saskatchewan Huskies.

This year saw the tides turn in the Rouge et Or side especially in the second half of the game. Friday night's top player of the game was the game changer for sure as Maxime Boutin brought his electrifying legs, running for 253 yards, to go along with two touchdowns and a MVP of the 48th Vanier Cup and his name in CIS record books as the second most rushing yards, in Vanier Cup history.

The first quarter was a lot of defense and not much ball movement, not anything to write home about.

The second quarter looked a little more open and quarterbacks and receiver were starting to make plays, Laval got up 12-0 quickly, but Kyle Quinlan picked up his team and marched them down field before Quinlan punched in the one yard run to get McMaster on the board 12-7.

With a minute left before the half time, Quinlan made two passes that were great. One was a 43 yarder, and the other was a 59 yarder, putting McMaster on top of the score for the first time in the game, with 14-12 going into half time.

After the half, McMaster packed it in early and went home, or maybe thought they had already done enough, because when they came back out for the second half they didn't look like the team that was leading at half time.

As the third quarter went on you could start to see Rouge et Or had something to prove. As Boutin started to heat up the game started to slip from the hands of McMaster.

Laval started to pull away with the game and show they deserved the CIS record breaking seventh Vanier Cup.

At the end of the third quarter, the game was almost done with Rouge et Or already up 31-14. It didn't seem like McMaster wanted to win, either. It was kind of like a dog giving up on the bone. It looked like they just rolled over and fell asleep.

Laval shut down McMaster's offense, after half held them to zero points in the second half while Rouge et Or exploded for 25 points in the second half.



Photo by David Zammit

Laval Rouge et Or running back Maxime Boutin makes an explosive move past McMaster Marauders' Nicholas Shortill during third quarter action. Boutin went on to receive the MVP honours with two touchdowns and 253 yards rushing.

## Concert series part of Grey Cup festivities

Classic rock songs set to footage of vintage football and Grey Cup festivities

By Benjamin Priebe

The Metro Toronto Convention Centre is cleared out and dark, except for a large stage, several massive TVs and of course the beer and drinks bar.

Around 6 p.m., a crowd of hollering middle-aged men and women decked out in team colours begins to slowly trickle in, quickly becoming a torrent of fans.

The Molson House Concert Series kicks off its second night with a live DJ remixing classic rock songs to pump up the crowd, set to old footage of vintage football and Grey Cup festivities.

He mixes songs with a heavy bass beat that resonates in your chest. Seven dollar bottles of Molson Canadian and Coors Light were served and the security barriers were tested by a crush of bodies excited for the opening act of Canadian Music Hall of Famers, Myles Goodwyn and April Wine.

In the meantime, Master of Ceremonies Dominik Diamond, disc jockey at Q107, tells a slew of jokes while rooting for the Toronto Argonauts.

He promises an amazing show of Canadian musical talent and then brings out three young women dressed in tight referee uniforms who dish out free swag to the crowd.

T-shirts, hats and alcohol sets the stage and makes the crowd rowdy. Dancing, drinking and rooting for the team abound under the coloured light show in front of the stage. One particular older woman has decided she should jump the security barrier and takes a seat beside the photographers and security guards. When she is asked to leave, she insists she has her own media pass and uses her beer can to simulate the lens of a camera.

Finally, after much ado, the stage lights come to life and Myles Goodwyn and April Wine take to the stage at 7:30 p.m. Little introduction is needed and the band jumps right into fan favourite Oowatanite. The bells of Roy Nichol and shredding guitar of Goodwyn wake up the long-waiting audience and they all begin to sing along.

Afterwards, Myles Goodwyn and April Wine kept the momentum moving with Roller, Gypsy Queen and then Just Between You and Me, which caused one solitary lighter to be put in the air.

The lights go dim and roadies begin dismantling and setting up new

equipment, readying the stage for Kim Mitchell's performance. Audience members indulge in lager and ale and make runs for pizza or pulled pork sandwiches.

Mitchell and his band took to the stage, opening up with Lager and Ale. The crowd cheers and packs up against the security barriers, pumping fists and singing along with this three-time Juno award winner.

Kim Mitchell has a rather laid-back performance, with little flashing lights and a stationary posture, until Mitchell picks things up with Rockland Wonderland. The set continues through Go for a Soda, I Am a Wild Party and of course, Patio Lanterns.

There seemed to be a bit of tension after Kim Mitchell's performance, perhaps because this older crowd had little idea who exactly Big Sugar was, a reggae blues rock band from Toronto that has been around since 1988.

Much of the older audience actually filed out of the hall at this point, up the series of four elevators, either for cigarettes, fresh air, or to avoid anything they hadn't heard before. Many of them did not return in time for Big Sugar's debut on stage.

The roadies did a very interesting number, covering the stage in a

myriad of instruments all wrapped in Rastafarian coloured duct-tape and smoke machines began to kick off. The air became heavy and thick and the lights turned a deep orange.

The remaining audience members varied in age but were mostly male. They knew this would be a very intense show and several people yelled “Goooordie!” as lead singer and guitarist Gordie Johnson sprinted on to stage followed by a keyboardist named Friendliness, who carries a large bowl full of burning incense.

A quick blessing of the stage occurred and then the band, after greeting their captive audience, jumped into a cover of The Black Keys song Howlin' for You.

Turn the Lights On was up next and Johnson picked up a double-headed guitar while Kelly Hoppe on the saxophone did a single microphone duet with him. The show was high energy but you could tell the night was getting late and the crowd was getting tired.

Finally, around 11:30 p.m., the concert ended and those who did not make the early exit crushed together into the escalators and past a small group of Grey Cup cheerleaders to stumble into their beds for the night.

## Gala...

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Now the SkyDome's field is almost reaching its capacity. There are quite a few people at this inflated football game where you could throw the football through a hole to score points. Almost everyone was trying to beat their friends at it or get them to come over and try it. The Argonaut's cheerleaders are walking around in there blue and white mini skirt and short tops waving their pompoms in the air, stopping to talk to the guests and have their photo taken with them.

There were several stages set up where Canadian Pop singer Chris Willis, country singer Brad Mates of Emerson Drive, Jon Dretto 14-year-old guitarist and Madison Kozak, a 15-year-old singer, performed for the crowd.

Walking around on the field, you could find Damon Allen who led the Argos to their 15th Grey Cup championship in 2004, talking with others. Michael Luttrell Clemons, nicknamed Pinball by Tom Cudney because of his running style, who was awarded CFL Most Outstanding Player in 1990, was shaking almost everyone's hands and giving them hugs.

Everyone was happy chatting with friends, family or someone new they met. The overall ambience of the event was very jovial. Once more the DJ brought the music to a standstill and Chris Rudge walked onto the stage, letting everyone know the gala would be ending in half an hour and everyone should start making there way out. He ended his speech with the Argonaut cheer:

“Argooooooooooooooooooooooooooooos.”